

RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 295
SHERIDAN, MT 59749

MEETING MINUTES – March 2, 2016

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Ruby Valley Conservation District was called to order by Neil Barnosky, Vice Chairman, at 7:00 p.m. at the NRCS Conference Room, Sheridan, Montana.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Giem	George Trischman	Neil Barnosky
Jeremy Miller		Shirley Galovic, Dist. Admin.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dan Durham, NRCS	Matt Jaeger, FWP
David Stout, Restoration Project Coordinator	

Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (February 3), motion by George to approve, second by Jeremy, motion carried.
Treasurers Report for February 2016 (Attach. "A") "Incomplete" – motion by George to disperse until April meeting, second by Jeremy, motion carried.

Excused absences: Motion by Jeremy to excuse John Anderson & Rick Sandru, second by George, motion carried.
Gary Giem, Chairman, conducted meeting at this point.

310 BUSINESS: NEW APPLICATIONS
 REVIEW - - DECISION
 SIGN 273
 SET UP INSPECTIONS
 INSPECTION COMPLETE

RV15-26 Fintail Ranch LLC – Darnutzer Creek – stream restoration & fish habitat. Matt & Gary inspected 7/31/15. Tabled.
RV16-01 John Sampson – Schoolhouse & Owsley Sloughs – remove debris. 1/6/16 approved contingent on inspection. Matt & George tried to inspect 1/7/16 but too much ice. Matt & George inspected 3/2/16 and approved the debris removal but not the uprooting of the tree on the bank of the slough.

RV16-06 Morse Land Co. – Mill Creek – remove & replace jack-leg diversion, fish barrier. Matt & George inspected 3/2/16. Motion by Jeremy to approve with modifications on team report, second by George, motion carried.

RV16-07 Cameron Campbell – Ruby Reservoir – recreational mining. Motion by Jeremy to waive inspection and approve as proposed, second by Neil, motion carried.

RV16-08 Silver Spring Ranch, Bullerdick Ditch – Ruby River – repair washed out rock diversion. Matt & George inspected 3/2/16. Motion by Jeremy to approve as proposed, second by George, motion carried. Neil recused himself.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent the District a copy of a letter sent to John Sampson regarding a cultural assessment being necessary on his project on Ramshorn Creek. This was for our information purposes only.

NRCS REPORT:

Dan Durham reported that current Snowtel reports show that snowpack is hanging on pretty well in high elevations – Jefferson 106%; Madison 90%; Gallatin 93%. The Ruby Reservoir in January was 8000 ac. Ft. behind last year with only 30 cfs being let out. Pivots Plus in Dillon offers a school on soil health – last week their presenter from BPA did a presentation on better efficiency on electric power with pivots. He had research they had conducted using longer pivot tubes that actually reach under the plant canopy as it grows. They had a graph that compared soil moisture throughout the entire season with a regular tube on the same pivot. These longer tubes are not affected by wind or evaporation and the difference is huge. They also measured the crop and it increased forage by two tons. A couple ranchers in Dillon and the Madison are going to try it so we'll have some local data to use for comparison. The average savings are 15% on water & 15% on energy, but to switch to the longer tubes for the whole system costs approximately \$10,000. Dan is working on some special initiatives for conifer removal; honeybee enhancement; windbreaks. He was notified today what this office will be allocated and hopefully 2 or 3 of his projects will be funded. The Tech Position was announced and is open until Monday, 3/7. Next week is the deadline for WRP.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Planning Board – No report
2. Watershed – Rebecca's report – written submission attached. David reported he has received information from Ann Schwend on FEMA grants for drought resiliency. CDs are sub-applicants with the state. Ann has been conducting a Drought Planning Course once a month for Bureau of Reclamation funding. A Drought Plan has to be put together to get any of this funding. David finished the Ramshorn Creek soil sampling today. He has scheduled field work on California Creek for March 14. RRGL & RDGP grant deadline is May 15. David is looking into grants from the Cinnabar Foundation are due the end of March for special project funding on conifer identification and support; sediment reduction projects offering 1:1 match. When he has checked them out, he will report back to the District. Jeremy suggested when gathering willows to coordinate with the County when they are doing road maintenance willow cutting. It could even be part of someone's community service hours to help with the gathering.
3. Carcass Composting – Rebecca still trying to connect with Smails
4. Alder Gulch Phase I Improvements (VC Kids Pond) – RDGP – waiting on DNRC approval of revised design, field trip with DEQ 3/7/16
5. 319 Grant – Miller Ranch River Restoration Project – revise final report
6. RDGP Grant for Flood Hazard (Channel Migration) Mapping of Missouri Headwaters streams – in progress, meeting 3/8/16
7. HB223 Grant – Channel Migration Mapping – in progress
8. DNRC District Development Grant – in progress
9. Capacity Building Grant – High Divide – website update – in progress
10. HB223 Grant – Smith Slough Fisheries Enhancement Project - contracted
11. RAC Grant – Upper Ruby Noxious Weed Cooperative Project – approved \$30,000
12. U. S. Forest Service Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Group – keep attending

NEW BUSINESS

1. Banquet – sponsor letters sent out, tickets printed, need Stewardship Nominations.
2. Administrative Grant Application in April 2016 – Motion by George to approve applying, second by Jeremy, motion carried.
3. Vacant supervisor position – Motion by Jeremy to appoint George to vacant supervisor position for remainder of term, second by Neil, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – March 2016 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council – Mar. 21, 5:30p potluck; 6p mtg – Philanthropy Bldg., Sheridan
3. RVCD/MCD Annual Banquet, April 16, 2016, Elks Lodge, Virginia City

“OPEN MICROPHONE” - Other comments from the public. No comments from public.
With business completed, the meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Shirley Galovic
District Administrator

Gary Giem
Chairman

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